

7th February 1924]

*The Lee Commission.*

196 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Madras was consulted with regard to the appointment of the Lee Commission;

(b) what the opinion of the Government of Madras on the matter was and whether it was unanimous;

(c) whether the Government of Madras selected the witnesses—associations as well as individuals—to give evidence before the Commission, or whether they were consulted in the matter;

(d) what are the names of the associations or individuals whom the Government selected or recommended to give evidence before the Lee Commission, and on what principle the selection or recommendation was made;

(e) whether the name of the Madras High Court Vakils' Association was suggested to the Commission by the Government; and

(f) whether the Government have placed any proposals before the Lee Commission, and, if so, what they are?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) & (d) The Government distributed copies of the questionnaires to a number of associations and individuals, of whom a list has already been published in the newspapers, and the Commission selected from among those who sent in written replies the witnesses from whom they wished to receive oral evidence.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

(f) The correspondence and discussions between the Government and the Commission were confidential.

**Reforms.**

*Power of appointment and control by Ministers.*

197 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the power of control and appointment possessed by the Ministers before were curtailed within the last few months; if so, when were they so curtailed;

(2) whether the Ministers have agreed to the changes made in the rules, procedure followed or the curtailment of their powers; if so, when; and

(3) what are the powers of the Ministers with reference to appointment and control of officers in the Transferred departments; in what respects do they differ from those of Executive Councillors in the Reserved departments?

A.—(1) & (3) The general powers of Members of Council and Ministers in respect of subjects committed to their control are defined in sections 50 and 52 of the Act, respectively. Briefly speaking, in the case of Reserved subjects, when a difference of opinion arises, the opinion of the majority prevails unless the Governor sees reason to reject it on the ground that the safety, tranquillity or interests of the province would be essentially affected if it were put into operation. In the case of Transferred subjects, the Governor is guided by the advice of his Ministers unless he sees sufficient cause to dissent from their opinion.